



## **A Note From Doris**

A collection of personal and inspirational poems  
and essays by Greenville Illinois Folk Artist,

**Doris Mayfield**

## A Note From Doris

### **A Memorable Christmas**

(None Is More Special Than The Present)

By Doris Mayfield

After the tree was brought down from the attic, I laid the branches out on the living room floor according to size and began the job of assembling. When that task was completed, the lights and ornaments were unboxed.

A quick check of the lights revealed only one set was working. That's O.K. I'm just using the top half of the tree this year anyway. One set of bulbs will be enough illumination.

Then I opened the box of ornaments we've been collecting for 47 Christmases. That's when the tugging at the heart strings begins.

First out of the container was a handmade yarn ball. Dear Aunt Ellie, you would bring us a new crocheted "pretty" every year. How it delighted the children to hang them on the tree. You're not with us anymore, but your memory is renewed in our hearts each time we look upon those multi-colored balls.

Ailene, hanging the white ornaments you gave us refreshes the recollection of your daughter's Christmas wedding.

That little mouse tucked- in a walnut shell...from the other Doris...is a special remembrance.

Sydney, I see your jolly face each time we hang those two little drums you gave us.

Scattered proudly around the branches are the decorations made by the children during their early school years, vacation bible school and Sunday school. Crude perhaps, by

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commercial standards, but beautiful in the eyes of parents and grandparents.

Mary's silver bell rings a special reminder of a special lady each time we move the limb it hangs from.

There's a trio of ornaments from Don representing the years I was in his Sunday School class.

Lamora, the nest with bird and eggs is as beautiful as you are.

Each time I look upon the miniature violin from our lawyer friend Don, I'm reminded of the many hours of musical pleasure we've spent in his company and how he made his harmonica sound as sweet as a Stradivarius.

There's a special place in my heart for the small, glass reindeer and the dove from the Sunday School class I taught.

Another treasured friendship is represented by the duck figurine from Leona.

Dear, dear Babe, your little milkweed ornament stirs so many sweet memories of a sweet person.

Another look around the attic and I come upon the wooden, scale-model church built by daddy many years ago. It must be brought down to be set alongside the house, barn and miniature wagon created for our Yuletide scene by my husband. At the side of the tree is the "sock doll" made by Lyle. Only a couple are left from the several he made to give away some Christmases back.

Thanks goodness I was home alone when I undertook this project. As I stepped back, to survey my work and thought of all the beautiful

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people represented there, tears crept into my eyes.

Many of those who have touched the lives of me and my family in such wonderful ways have gone over to the other side. For those remaining, I say a silent prayer of thanks.

Finally, I thank my Heavenly Father for the one who made it all possible. Without Jesus Christmas would mean nothing.

**"Another Chapter In My Book of Life"**

Doris Mayfield

1/14/99

I think of the years that have flown by so fast  
And I see a little child sitting on it's mother's  
lap,  
Looking up into her eyes so shining and bright.  
That was the first chapter in my book of life.

Growing up with seven children, a mother and a  
dad,  
Luxuries in life were things we never had,  
But, there was love in our home money could  
not buy.  
Just another chapter in my book of life.

You find the one with whom your life you want  
to share  
You're on another journey...many plans to  
prepare  
You make a big decision and you become a wife  
And that's another chapter in my book of life

Life is changing, children come, they grow up so  
fast,  
But we'll keep within us always the memories of  
the past.  
Now three precious grandsons bring us joy and  
delight.  
Another happy chapter in my book of life

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You have grown older.. past three score and  
ten  
The Lord has really blessed you time and  
again  
Though older I savor every day and each  
night  
As I write the final chapter in my book of life

And when the wick grows short and comes  
the  
day  
The soul is set free from this body of clay  
May my loved ones remember my candle  
burned  
bright  
As I lived through the chapters of my book  
of  
life

**"Heaven Or Hell"**

By Doris Mayfield

May 1995

The Bible tell us we spend our Years as a tale  
That is told.

I look at my life and watch the years unfold.  
What kind of tale will my life tell?  
At the end of the road, is it Heaven or hell?

What am I doing with this life God gave me?  
When I leave here, where will I spend eternity?  
If my years are spent like a tale that is told,  
If! walk alone, I'll bear a heavy load.

But wait, I'm not walking alone each day!  
For Jesus is with me all of the way.  
If I just accept him, as my very own,  
I'll be with him in His heavenly home.

*A Note From Doris*

**"Mother Nature's Song"**

Doris Mayfield

Feb. 1999

I hear the wind a blowing gently through the  
trees  
It seems I hear a sweet melody  
The rain is softly falling on my roof all night long  
I'm listening to another one of mother nature's  
songs

I hear the birds a singing on a bright spring morn  
the honey bees buzzing round the clover on the  
lawn  
the katydids are making noise all evening long  
I'm just hearing another one of mother nature's  
songs

The crowing of the roosters at the break of dawn  
The deer come springing forth with their little  
fawn  
The mooing of the cows as milking time comes  
along,  
And I hear another one of mother nature's songs

The bleating of the sheep as the shepherd comes  
near  
To be taken to green pastures, without a hint of  
fear  
the whippoorwill comes calling at the edge of  
dawn  
And I'm listening to another one of mother  
nature's songs.



### *A Note From Doris*

## "This Little Lamb Of Mine!"

Doris Mayfield

1995

Lord a little lamb has strayed from the fold  
 Lord I know he's walking down a rough and rocky road  
 Guard him and keep him ever in your care  
 Lord I know that You'll be there

I tried to raise him in the way that he should go  
Tried my best to teach him, the things that he  
                        should know  
But the world was out there waiting with wide  
                        open arms  
Lord please guard and keep him from all harm

I remember from the Bible 'bout the ninety and  
nine  
One little sheep was lost for a time  
But the Shepherd went searching for the little  
lamb  
He found it and brought it back again

So please, please Jesus, keep him in your care  
Protect him from the howling winds of doubt  
and despair  
Please stay by his side and ever be his guide  
Protect him this little lamb of mine.

**"Our Wonderful God"**

Doris Mayfield

1994

God reached His hand down from Glory  
And touched the little green tree  
With beautiful blossoms of color  
For all of the world to see  
The flowers in all of their beauty  
The tiniest grain of sand  
The enormous oceans of water  
Were made by His Almighty Hand  
The stars at night as they peek through  
The soft white clouds in the sky  
The sun and the moon which give us light  
Tell us when it's day and night  
He put a song in the heart of a little bird  
Which seems to brighten up our world  
He touches each one of His children  
Through the pages of His Holy Word  
As the grain is planted, He touches the field  
He brings to harvest and produces the yield  
He gives us the rain and also the snow  
**He** changes the season as they come and go  
He gives us life and our very breath  
Are in His hands, the very best  
Thank you Lord for giving to me  
Your gift of Salvation so great and free

*A Note From Doris*

**"Five Generations"**

Doris Mayfield

3/23/92

In the five generation picture what do I see  
An old, old man looking down at me  
A hat in his hand and a beard on his face  
He looks like he belongs in another time and  
place

Next comes the picture of a dashing young man  
A smile on his face, his life has a plan  
But the years take their toll, life's been a rough  
road

Yes, that's a story that has often been told

Next comes the man who for forty some years  
Has been at my side through smiles and tears  
With all his knowledge he could be an inventor  
But like Ben Franklin he wants to be  
remembered as a printer.

The handsome young man next in line  
Likes to boat and fish and have a good time  
But one thing he's more proud of than any other  
That's the little boy who calls me Grandmother

And you little man at the end of the line  
Only two years old and you're mighty fine  
Standing so proudly for all the world to see  
Saying, "Look behind me. That's my family  
tree."

*A Note From Doris*

**"Poor Little Feet"**

Doris Mayfield

Dec. 1991

Poor little feet, stuffed in a shoe  
Oh, I feel so sorry for you  
Deep in the dark, squeezed in so tight  
I bet you wish for the good daylight

Kicking at rocks along the road  
Whenever someone gets the urge  
Wading through water and cold, cold snow  
In the wintertime when the cold winds blow

Little toes cry out, they are so cold  
Also the heel, right down to the sole  
Pointy toes and high, high heels  
Wish someone would care how we feel

Cowboy boots look so grand  
They belong at Custer's last stand  
Mile after mile, day in, day out  
Wish someone could hear me shout

I'm glad at the end of a long day  
When off comes the shoes and I can say  
Please have mercy on these poor little feet  
As we walk along to the drummers beat.

*A Note From Doris*

**"My Children"**

Doris Mayfield

1991

My children, My children  
    How different the three  
You wouldn't think they came  
    From the same family  
One is skinny, One kinda fat  
The other one is between all that

One likes country,  
    One likes rock  
The other would rather  
    Listen to Bach  
One is serious  
    One is funny  
One just likes to make lots of money

One likes the country,  
    One likes the city  
One just loves his little kitty

One likes to fish,  
    One likes to sail  
One even likes Vice President Quayle  
My, on my, how different the three  
You wouldn't think they came  
    From the same family tree.

*A Note From Doris*

**"Welcome Home"**

Doris Mayfield

7/8/91

When my life is over and you cover me with  
clay

Don't weep for me dear brother

As you journey on your way

Don't shed no tears of sorrow

As I leave this earthly home

For I'll have a place in heaven

Where I'll never be alone

Just remember all the moments

We shared while here below

And treasure them within your heart

As you onward go

And think of me in heaven's home

With only happiness

With Jesus walking by my side

I know that I'll be blessed

For Jesus promised that He'd go

And make a better home

If! would just accept Him

As my very own

So when I leave this earthly tent

On this world below

I know I'll hear those precious words

***WELCOME HOME, WELCOME HOME!!!***

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## "The Straight and Narrow Pathway"

Doris Mayfield

Dec. 1991

I want to walk the straight and narrow pathway  
As I travel through this world here below  
I want to keep my thoughts turned toward  
                                heaven  
As I struggle through this world of woe  
I look around and see the lonely faces  
Of the crowds of people on the street  
Sometimes my heart feels so heavy  
For the lonely hearted people that I meet  
Our hearts are so heavy with burdens  
That seem to weigh us down everyday  
But we must turn our eyes to Jesus  
As we walk on the straight and narrow way.

**"Teach Me Lord"**

Doris Mayfield

1990

Teach me Lord to live my life each day  
To send someone a smile along the way  
To show that when life seems so hard to bear  
They have a Saviour up above who cares

I pray for wisdom Lord that I may see  
And each day I'll try to live for thee  
And when the world around me tumbles down  
I feel the Saviour's presence all around

And when my life on this old earth shall end  
I know I have a very special friend  
Who loves me and I surely want to be  
With Him I want to spend eternity



*A Note From Doris*

**"Where Would I Have Been"**

Doris Mayfield

1990

Where would I have been,  
    When the accusations came,  
When they placed a crown  
    Of thorns on Your brow  
They beat you and flogged  
    You and spit upon you too.  
Even though no wrong  
    They found in you!

Where would I have been,  
    When they mocked you  
Would I be peeking from  
    The edge of the crowd  
Would I like Peter deny you too?  
As fear kept his heart in a shroud!

When they placed a purple robe upon you,  
And struck you on the back making fun,  
Then they led you out to the hillside,  
And drove nails in your feet and your hands.

On the cross they placed you,  
    In agony and pain.  
As you looked down upon them  
    You placed no blame.  
You said, "Father forgive them,  
    As you looked into their eyes.  
You prayed for their forgiveness.  
    With your very last sigh.

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But where would I have been,  
    When they took Him away,  
I must look into my heart and see,  
For I know t'was my sins too,  
    That nailed Him to the cross.  
Oh the love He has for you and me.

### *A Note From Doris*

## "Dallas"

# Doris Mayfield

Oct. 1990

Written on the train coming home from Dallas!

I climbed aboard the Amtrak down in Dallas  
I took my seat and turned to wave goodbye  
Outside the window two small boys were  
                watching,  
With their Mamma standing by their side  
I could see the disappointment on their faces  
As they tried to force a smile and wave goodbye  
But inside I knew their little hearts were aching  
And teardrops were falling from their eyes

A part of me was staying,  
A part of me was leaving  
As the train was rolling down the track  
This leaving part of me,  
Must with other loved ones be  
But Dallas, I'll be coming back

Oh the feelings of the heart I cannot utter  
As I leave my precious loved ones behind  
But I knew there would be loved ones waiting  
At the other end of the line.  
So, I'll just cherish all the memories  
And keep them close to my heart  
But a certain part of me, will forever be  
With my loved ones so many miles apart.

*A Note From Doris*

**"Baby's Plea"**

Doris Mayfield

4/16/90

Oh Mama, please Mama can you hear me?  
From somewhere in my dark little world  
Oh Mama, please Mama will you love me  
For I'll soon be your own baby girl  
I can almost feel your arms around me  
As you look into my small tiny face  
Please Mama I hope that you will want me  
As I grow in this warm loving place.

I know Mama it can't be too much longer  
For me to be in this dark little place  
Give me the chance to show I love you  
As you look into my small baby face  
Oh Mama, I want you to hold me  
When my eyes first see the light  
Please promise me that you will love me  
Now, Mama I'll just say goodnight

**"Lord Help Me Right Now To See"**

Doris Mayfield

1978

Lord help me right now to see  
What you would have me to do for thee.  
Is there someone along the way,  
Some lonely soul with whom I should pray?  
Right now, Dear Lord, let me see  
I must not 'put off' working for thee.

There's many things to be done,  
Right now there's souls to be won,  
Teach me right now where to go,  
Maybe to lighten a brother's load,  
Right now, Dear Lord, let me see,  
I must not 'put off' working for thee.

There is so much work to be done,  
As life hastens on toward the setting sun.  
I must do it now not delay,  
For who knows tomorrow may be my last day.  
Right not, Dear Lord, let me see,  
I must not 'put off' working for thee.

Dear Father in heaven above,  
Thank you for all of your love,  
Thank you for sending your son,  
Thank you for souls that are won,  
For all that you've done for me,  
I must not 'put off' working for thee.

*A Note From Doris*

I have heard so many people say, "I just can't do it." I used to say that too. But I learned different. When the time comes for us to have to do something the Lord always gives us the strength to do it. I believe we have an inner strength hidden in each of us and when the time comes it is at our disposal.

The Lord never gives us anything which we cannot bear. It may not seem so at the very moment, but if we completely put our trust in God, He will go with us all the way. He will see us through any kind of suffering sickness, sorrow or which seems to me to be the worse kind, to watch someone else suffer.

When I think of each one of us being here on earth such a short span of time and be such helpless, wretched human beings, we really do not deserve one ounce of God's love and goodness.

Still God says, "I forgive you, you are my child."

And to think Jesus went all the way to the cross and suffered and died for me and you.

I just wonder how many of us will go all the way for Him???

*A Note From Doris*

**Lord you are with me all day long,**  
You know when I'm weak,  
You know when I'm strong.  
You know when I'm sick,  
You know when I'm well,  
What's in my heart only you can tell.

You know if I'm truly forgiving or not,  
You know me within, you know me without.  
Yes, Lord, you know me from A to Z,  
Oh, why do I try and hide from thee?

You know my thoughts, what dwells in my  
mind  
You know if I'm loving or being unkind.  
Oh, come and dwell in my heart today,  
And be King of Love forever to stay.

Doris Mayfield  
Nov. 1967

*A Note From Doris*

**"Number Two Son"**

Doris Mayfield

Nov. 1967

Number two son, you are only eight,  
Sometime you seem so much older,  
And at other times you're such a baby  
Whining and crying around.

We've had lots of fun together,  
and quite a bit of sadness too.  
But, you know life is not all laughter,  
Or so the saying goes.

Sometime you've been such a problem,  
I didn't know which way to turn.  
But, I wish I had those moments back again,  
We'd both try harder I think.

I remember when you were a baby,  
I held you so close to me.  
And when I looked at your tiny face,  
My troubles would all melt away.

Your eyes looked so trustingly into mine,  
You knew I'd always be there.  
No worry 'bout things unknown,  
That comes sometime unawares.

Yes, keep that childlike faith you had,  
When you were a wee babe so small,  
For God up in heaven who takes care of you  
Can make you grow 'so tall'.



**"Nothing 'Gonna Happen today"**

Doris Mayfield

No Date

There ain't nothing 'gonna happen today  
That the Lord and I can't handle  
There is nothing that you can say  
That the Lord and I can't handle  
for I've taken my stand,  
I've placed myself in God's hand.  
there ain't nothing 'gonna happen today,  
that the Lord and I can't handle.

When the burdens of life get me down  
and troubles of life surround me  
When the lovely blue sky up above  
Turns to dark stormy clouds around me  
I know what I'll do, it brings a blessing to  
For I can always say,  
There ain't nothing 'gonna happen today,  
That the Lord and I can't handle.